

Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development

SUMMARY OF CONVENING

Date: April 28, 2023

Time: 9:00 A.M.

Place: 900 N. Portland Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73107, Student Center, North & South Conference Rooms

Call to Order/Welcome

Chair Chuck Gray welcomed the group. A quorum was not established so Chair Gray said that we could continue with the convening for informational purposes, but business could not be conducted, nor anything could be voted on, those items would be tabled.

Approval of January 27, 2023, Minutes

Tabled.

Consent Agenda

Tabled.

Public Private Partnership and Education Presentation

Jon Chiappe, Director, Research Division, Oklahoma Department of Commerce, gave a presentation on P3 (Public Private Partnership and Education). He explained that Oklahoma's P3 Pooled Finance Program is a workforce tool that is being used right now for the Oklahoma Expansion program and it is good for infrastructure projects. In 2019, SB749 was amended to allow the state to partner with local government entities on infrastructure development where there is a benefit to private sector companies (effective November 2019). For the complete P3 presentation, click on the link: [4/28/23 Governor's Council Meeting - P3 Presentation](#).

Department of Corrections Workforce Engagement Opportunities Presentation

Clint Castleberry, Chief Administrator, Classification and Programs, Oklahoma Department of Corrections, gave a presentation on workforce opportunities to assist reentry efforts. Clint said that the new director of the Department of Corrections is Steven Harpe and their new mission statement is "We Change Lives". His presentation will discuss some of the things that they do to prepare people for successful reentry so they are employable but also he's going to take the opportunity to showcase and give some shoutouts to some of their partners in the room or across the state. Some of them are state agencies and other entities who are working with the justice involved population and are doing a lot of the heavy lifting to provide some of that connectivity. He said DOC has some great state agency partnerships, but today he is going to focus on workforce and those who are assisting the people reentering back into the community as tax paying citizens. For the complete DOC Reentry presentation, click on the link: [DOC Reentry and Workforce Opportunities](#)

Workforce Transformation Task Force

Due to a conflict, Secretary of Commerce Chad Mariska was unable to attend at the last minute. Chair Gray said that Secretary Mariska stated that the Task Force Report was delivered to the governor by the April 15th deadline. It has not yet been vetted or discussed. Chair Gray said that in the cabinet organization chart, the Secretary of Workforce Development has under them the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission (OESC), the OESC Board of Review, the Health Care Workforce Resources Board, the Health Care Workforce Training Commission, and the Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development (includes WIOA Title I and III funding). WIOA dollars will flow through to local workforce development boards as it is doing now. A non-profit will handle state resources. Chuck said that each Council member and other workforce partners are a valued part to this plan and Secretary Mariska asks that everyone pull together as a team, work on the things that we are currently working on and be the best that we can be so Oklahoma can continue to grow and prosper.

Committee Updates

- **Career Pathways – Marissa Lightsey, Co-chair**

Marissa reported that the committee meets quarterly and that she and Marcie Mack are co-chairs and Brittane Grant is staff to the committee. Members of the committee come from K-12, Higher Education, Career Tech, Local Workforce Boards, and Workforce Partners. (For the complete presentation, access this link: [Career Pathways Committee Update](#))

- What is a Career Pathway?

- The term means a combination of rigorous and high-quality education, training, and other services that create a seamless transition from K-12, Postsecondary, to Career. A quality career pathway must be system-led involving input from K-12, Career Technology Education, and industry for the purpose of building clear road maps for students to explore and prepare for life after high school. This process must involve all stakeholders with the goal of creating opportunities to explore pathways with intention.
- Example of a Career Pathway:

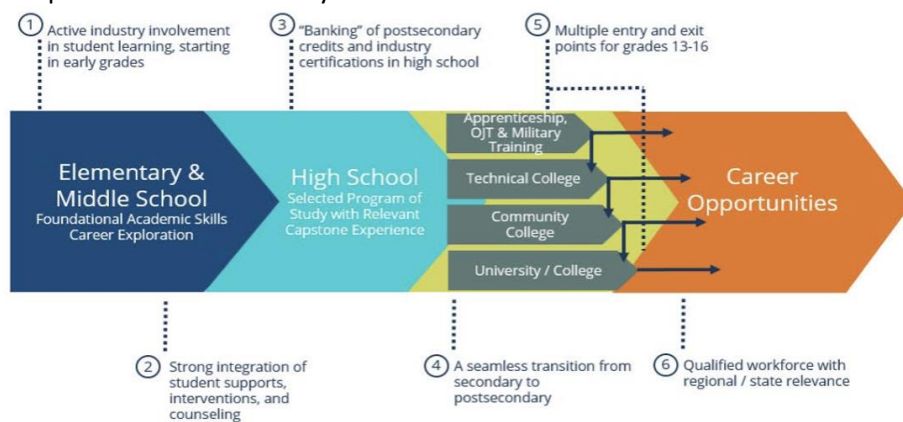


Figure 1: Model of an effective student learning pathway

- What are Career Pathway Outcomes?

- Active industry involvement in student learning, starting in the early grades: Encourage and support active industry involvement which begins early on in a student's learning pathway.

- Strong integration of student supports, interventions, and advisement: Establish a collective goal to ensure that all students have access to rigorous standards and great instruction in all courses.
 - Students’ ability to earn credits and industry certification while in high school: Allow for college credits and industry certifications in high school. Students should demonstrate proficiency as they progress through their learning pathway.
 - Seamless transition from secondary to postsecondary: Ensure clear goals for student entry into postsecondary education and career.
 - Three Strategic Workgroups meet in between meetings
 - Employer Engagement
 - Postsecondary Completion
 - Reducing High School Dropouts
 - Seamless Transitions
 - Summer Bridge Program – ICAP-Individual Career Academic Plan activity toolkit. Using a summer bridge program allows for high schools, workforce leaders, and community leaders to increase the amount of high school graduates enrolling in postsecondary programs.
 - Work with University of Oklahoma Career Fields, Clusters & Majors – Universities can leverage ICAP plans to help students identify majors and provide major/career exploration training to college first year academic advisors.
- **Healthcare Workforce – Teresa Huggins, Co-chair**

Teresa Huggins, co-chair, gave the following presentation. Dr. Steven Crawford, M.D., OU College of Medicine, Senior Associate Dean, is also a co-chair. (For the complete Healthcare Workforce Committee update access this link: [Healthcare Workforce Committee Update.](#))

 - **Purpose of the Healthcare Workforce Committee**
 - Inform, coordinate, and facilitate statewide efforts to ensure that a well-trained, adequately distributed, and flexible healthcare workforce is available to meet the needs of an efficient and effective healthcare system in Oklahoma.
 - **Activities**
 - Conduct data analysis and prepare reports on health workforce supply and demand
 - Research and analysis of state health professional education and training capacity
 - Recommend recruitment and retention strategies for areas determined by the Oklahoma Primary Care Office or the Oklahoma Office of Rural Health to be areas of high need; and
 - Assessment of health workforce policy, evaluation of impact on Oklahoma’s health system and health outcomes, and developing health workforce policy recommendations
 - Review of Health Resource and Services Administration (HRSA)
 - “Hands On” Career Exploration/Exposure Healthcare Industry Day
 - Grades 7-12 – OOWD to help with funding, sub-committee to plan activities, Fall 2023 or Spring 2024
 - Example professions: Nursing, optometry, providers, EMTs, Hospitals, Mental Health, dentistry, pharmacy and other related professions
 - Office of Workforce Development’s Apprenticeship Program
 - Exploration of Workforce Training and Development with Tribal entities and patient-centered medical home accreditation
 - HRSA Investments in Oklahoma

Total	\$163,352,683
Health Workforce	\$38,451,037
Healthcare Systems	\$8,415,735
HIV/AIDS	\$12,249,777
Maternal and Child Health	\$27,063,272
Primary Health Care	\$67,492,406
Rural Health	\$7,910,462
Health Professions	\$1,769,994

- Incentive Reimbursement Funds Available through the Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development
 - \$3,000/apprenticeship (up to \$12,000 for a single employer)
(up to \$24,000 for a consortium)
 - \$750/mentor (up to \$2,250 for a single employer)
(up to \$4,500 for a consortium)
 - OOWD is accepting incentive applications on the 1st and 15th of every month until all funds have been allocated.
- Upcoming Activities
 - Discussion with OSU-OKC's Office of Community Engagement
 - Training needs for tribal and other entities
 - Improving citizen health outcomes
 - Maximize care reimbursement dollars
 - Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH)

Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development – Update

Susannah Gravley, Interim Executive Director, gave the following update:

- Susannah began by asking everyone in the room to stand up if they work in workforce development. She wanted to acknowledge the many people who wake up every morning thinking about workforce development and the work that they do to help job seekers and employers across the state.
- Susannah stated that we are currently in the application stage of applying for an apprenticeship expansion grant for \$433,000.
- OOWD plans to apply for the next round of teacher apprenticeships so they will be reaching out to a number of organizations to assist with that.
- OOWD and OESC are still working through the discovery stage for the new case management system and implementation of it.
- The U.S. Department of Labor is tentatively coming in July to monitor OOWD for Title I funding, and also OESC for Title III funding.

Core Partners WIOA Titles – Update

- **Title II – OK Career & Technology Education – Brent Haken, State Director**
 - Brent said that he is so excited about the partnerships that we have here and every time that he's attended, he thinks about how we can strengthen what we do and how to collaborate better because this is so important what we do here for the state. That's what this meeting is all about – collaboration.

- Career Tech is in the monitoring phase right now.
- Brent wanted to mention Letha Bauter, Federal Programs manger. She oversees programs such as Perkins, Adult Education and Family Literacy, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). They've grown by 1,000 enrollments this year alone – have 10,000 this year total so far.
- He said to come see CareerTech in Stillwater, Oklahoma City, or other locations.
- **Title III – OK Employment Security Commission – Trae Rahill, CEO**
 - Community Outreach Service Model
 - Trae reported that OESC is piloting a new outreach program to place staff in communities where no workforce offices exist. These locations assist job seekers and employers by providing access to various services closer to home.
 - Technology Modernization Updates
 - Verify OK
 - Launched October 2022
 - All claimants are now required to pass through real-time facial recognition software to verify identity before a claim can be submitted
 - Has eliminated 90% of fraudulent attempts against employers since its launch
 - Employer Portal
 - Launched February 2023
 - Enables electronic notifications to employers via email and text for employee separations and benefit wage charge notices
 - Nearly 5,000 employers have taken advantage and signed up thus far, and over 40,000 electronic notifications have been sent out
 - Employer Engagements
 - OESC's new Strategic Engagement team is working on a number of new projects to engage the employer community
 - ◆ Industry-specific job fairs – partner with educational institutions and employers in high-demand fields to tailor hiring events to most needed career pathways
 - ◆ Local resourcing and support – Empower field office staff to engage with local employers to provide services, industry data, and share local market insights across the state
 - ◆ Employer Councils – facilitate in-person and virtual meetings between employers for knowledge sharing, education about OESC resources and services, linking to partner resources and services, and to strengthen and boost the workforce
 - Workforce Collaboration
 - Shared leadership with partner agencies
 - Joint leadership meetings with WIOA core partners
 - Collaboration on legislative changes
 - Engagement with various employer groups
 - State Chamber
 - Local chambers
 - Business councils
 - Technology Centers
- **Title IV – OK Dept. of Rehabilitation Services – Melinda Freundt, Executive Director**
 - Summer Programs for Youth with Disabilities – DRS Transition program and OU Pre-employment Transition Services are offering BEST STEP job readiness training and paid

- summer work experience this summer. BEST STEP is an acronym for Building Employment Skills Today and Summer Transition Employment Program. There are 27 cities scheduled across the state for free BEST STEP summer employment for youth with disabilities and includes opportunities in rural areas. Eligible youths can work up to 25 hours per week at \$10 per hour.
- VIBE (Visually Impaired & Blindness Empowerment) – The Transition VIBE Program provides assessment and career/higher education exploration and is designed to prepare the individual for higher education, competitive workforce, and independent living to the best of their ability. Students will learn independent living skills, communication skills, team building, travel/transportation, career and job exploration, interviews, technology, resume skills and exploration of college/career tech/workforce.
 - The RSA (Rehabilitation Services Administration, Department of Education) will be conducting an on-site visit the week of May 8-12.
 - VR (Voc Rehab) on-line self-referral/customer portal went live to the public and the portal link activated on the OKDRS website on January 17. A key feature of this portal is a way for consumers to be able to create an account on-line, using their email address so they can refer themselves to the VR Program. Once they officially complete an application and a case is created, they will be able to use the portal to access key information about their case. After submitting this information, they will be contacted by a local office to complete the application process by meeting with a vocational rehabilitation staff member to review the information submitted and discuss the VR process. Once the VR application process has been completed, clients can use the portal to see case status, counselor's contact information and review and update contact information.
 - Statewide Needs Assessment – DRS recently released the 2020-2022 statewide assessment. A report on the service needs of individuals with disabilities in the state of Oklahoma.
 - Business Services Team Highlights
 - The BST is working with OSU in a project of an interface and software to generate accessibility in manufacturing machines.
 - New partnership with the OK Forestry Services and externships offered for our clients.
 - Partnership with OU NCDet to provide trainings to businesses in the rural areas.

Old Business

Tabled.

New Business

Tabled.

Next Meeting

July 28, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City, Student Center, 3rd Floor, North & South Conference Rooms.

Adjournment

The convening adjourned at approximately 11:03 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Linda Emrich*